

To: Dan G. Utech[Dan_G_Utech@who.eop.gov]; Rohan Patel[Rohan_Patel@who.eop.gov]; Frank Benenati[Frank_J_Benenati@who.eop.gov]; Amy J. EOP Brundage[Amy_Brundage@who.eop.gov]
From: Reynolds, Thomas
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 12:21:16 PM
Subject: Fwd: Swing state voters back Clean Power Plan, says Democratic poll

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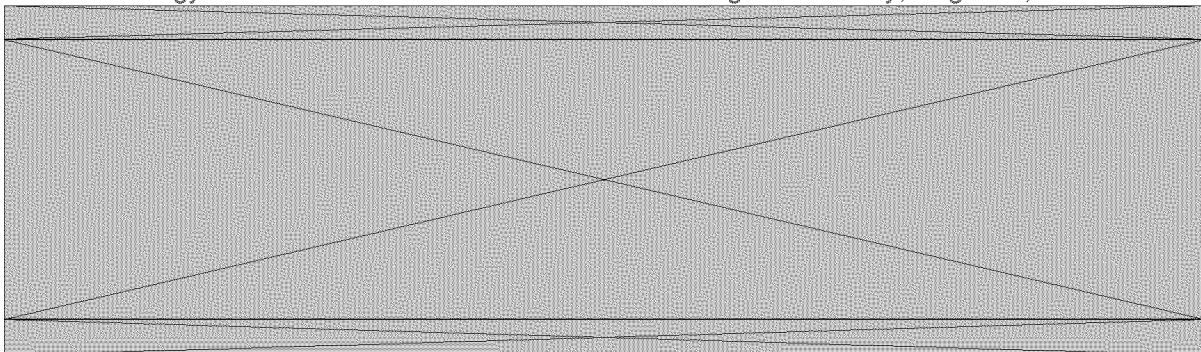
Begin forwarded message:

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@email.energyguardian.net>
Date: August 6, 2015 at 7:09:11 AM EDT
To: "Reynolds.thomas@epa.gov" <Reynolds.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: Swing state voters back Clean Power Plan, says Democratic poll
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Energy and environment headlines for the morning of Thursday, August 6, 2015



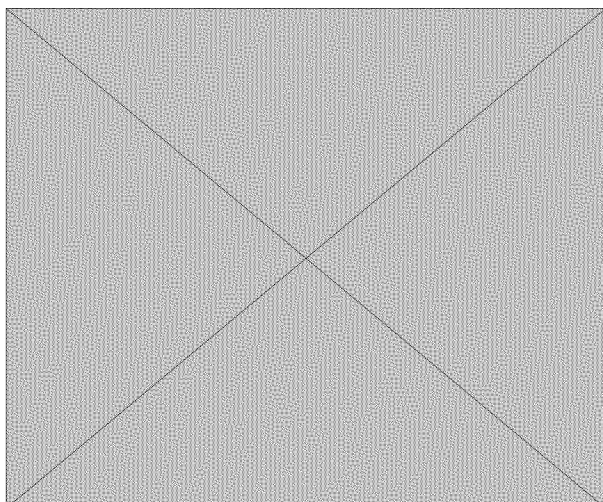
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Swing state voters back Clean Power Plan, says Democratic poll

By Kevin Rogers

Days after the Obama administration unveiled its final rules to slash power plant carbon emissions, a Democratic polling firm, commissioned by a liberal policy group, says the rules are resonating among voters in key battleground states ahead of the 2016 election season.

The poll, conducted by Public Policy Polling for Americans United for Change, found that a majority of voters across eight states supported the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to slash power plant carbon emissions. And among the 4,517 registered voters surveyed, most said they wouldn't vote against a candidate who supported the rule.

"We really gave voters both sides of the story and support is still overwhelming for this plan," PPP Director Tom Jensen told reporters on a call.

"The bottom line here is the plan is very good politics, it's very popular, has unusual levels of support across party lines for something in this political climate, and politicians who oppose this really do so at their own peril," he continued.

The final rules, released on Monday, seek to cut power plant carbon emissions 32 percent by 2030, compared with 2005 levels. The plan has drawn sharp opposition from congressional Republicans and legal threats from both state governments and industry groups.

The poll surveyed voters across Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Across the array of states, a majority of Republican voters opposed the new regulations, though most independent voters surveyed backed the regulations.

In every state, more than 50 percent of voters surveyed considered climate change to be a

"serious problem," and a majority voiced moderate or strong support for the final Clean Power Plan.

The poll also reported that most were opposed to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's call for states to not comply with the carbon regulations. The Kentucky Republican has called on state governors to reject the Clean Power Plan until legal challenges to the rule are settled.

"We didn't find significant support anywhere for the states to sort of just ignore the president and just go along," Jensen said.

Critics, however, said the poll featured leading questions to generate preferred responses and failed to properly offer respondents with information about the Clean Power Plan. They also noted that the bulk of the survey, conducted from July 31 to August 3, was done before the rules were finalized.

"The substance of environmental polling is always very suspect, and it's always a complex issue and it's always asking what I call teddy bear questions," Frank Maisano, a senior principal at the Bracewell & Giuliani law firm said.

"Do you support teddy bears? Do you support a clean environment. Of course, the answer to that question is a yes, no matter what you do," he continued.

The poll, in its question on support for the Clean Power Plan, did highlight the claims of supporters and opponents about the regulations.

It noted that supporters believed the plan was "essential to protecting our kids' health, keeping our air and water clean, and reducing the impact of climate change on our communities," while opponents said the rules would "mean higher energy costs, making it more expensive for companies to do business and leading to thousands of job losses and higher prices for consumers."

The questions asked didn't detail specific goals of the regulations beyond "placing limits" on power plant carbon emissions.

The poll, PPP said, had a margin of error of 1.5 percent.

"They took the poll between July 31 and August 1. No one even knew what the deal was when we were going through that," Maisano said.

The National Association of Manufacturers noted that the survey clashed with its own polling on the proposed version of the rules. Greg Bertelson, NAM director of energy and resources, said that the final rules maintained the same basic structure as the proposed ones supporting renewable energy at the expense of coal and natural gas.

"In our poll we found that three-fourths of voters support an all-of-the-above energy

strategy,” he said. “If you look at what this rule is, it’s anything but that. It’s clear that it’s counter to two of our most important sources of baseload energy, so if you look at it from that perspective voters are very strongly in opposition.”

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US raises concerns about pipeline through forests

By Steve Szkotak

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service has raised hundreds of concerns about a proposed natural gas pipeline that would carve a 30-mile swath through national forests in Virginia and West Virginia.

The written comments to federal regulators question why the proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline has to go through the George Washington and Monongahela national forests and raises similar worries cited by residents along the path of the 550-mile energy project.

The 335 questions, comments and corrections were submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in late July by H. Thomas Speaks Jr., forest supervisor. The Forest Service already has given the builders of the proposed pipeline the green light to survey the forests.

The pipeline is proposed by Dominion Resources Inc., Duke Energy and two energy partners. It would carry natural gas from Marcellus shale drilling in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia to the Southeast. It would run from Harrison County, West Virginia, southeast to Greensville County, Virginia, and into North Carolina.

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California meets drought-fueled fire season with extra crews

LAKEPORT, Calif. (AP) — The firefighters come from near and far, working 24-hour shifts to snuff out an unpredictable blaze that has burned more than 100 square miles in Northern California near a major recreational lake.

They bunk in tight sleepers and eat in a big mess hall. They depart in the mornings with enormous high-calorie sack lunches of sandwiches and cookies as others come back tired, footsore and hungry to their makeshift base at the Lake County fairgrounds.

The National Interagency Fire Center in Idaho has listed the fire 110 miles north of San Francisco as the nation's highest priority for crews and equipment. It is the largest of 23 fires statewide and takes up nearly a third of the 10,000 firefighters dispatched in California, which has become tinder box amid years of drought.

The good news is state fire officials prepared for a drought-fueled fire season and staffed up
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early with several hundred more firefighters than previous years, Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said.

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Tesla's loss triples in 2Q as it lowers delivery forecast

By Dee-Ann Durbin

DETROIT (AP) — Tesla Motors' upcoming Model X SUV cast a long shadow over the company's second-quarter results.

Tesla's net loss nearly tripled to \$184 million in the April-June period as it invested in tooling and factory capacity for the new SUV, which is scheduled to go on sale next month.

The Palo Alto, California, maker of electric cars also lowered its expectations for full-year sales because it's not confident suppliers will be able to meet its production goals for the Model X in the fourth quarter. It now expects to sell between 50,000 and 55,000 Model S sedans and Model X SUVs this year, down from a previous target of 55,000.

"We do think that it's going to be quite a challenging production ramp on the X," Tesla CEO Elon Musk told analysts on a conference call Wednesday. "We only want to deliver great cars, so we don't want to drive to a number that's greater than our ability to deliver high-quality vehicles."

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Virginia company sues state in hopes of mining uranium

By Steve Szkotak

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A mining company that wants to tap one of the world's largest uranium deposits sued Virginia on Wednesday to end a decades-long state moratorium on mining the radioactive ore.

Virginia Uranium Inc., which puts a market value of \$6 billion on the deposit, filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court to have the 1982 ban lifted so it can begin mining the 119 million-pound deposit near the North Carolina line.

The Chatham company argues that the state meddled in a matter that should be decided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Virginia officials, the lawsuit contends, came to the wrong conclusion when it said uranium posed unacceptable health and safety risks.

"But more importantly, it had no business asking that question to begin with," the lawsuit said. "For the radiological safety concerns that are at the heart of Virginia's ban are squarely within the field of exclusive federal regulatory concern."

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Taking bow for summer, Congress leaves clashes for fall

By Alan Fram

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drained and divided, the Senate is joining the House in summer recess as Congress sets course for an autumn of showdowns over Iran, spending and Planned Parenthood.

Senators left town Wednesday, a week after the House began a break that won't end for either chamber until after Labor Day. When they return, they'll face a fall jam-packed with do-or-die deadlines, including a September abbreviated by the Jewish holidays to just 10 days when both chambers are simultaneously in session.

Lawmakers are already looking ahead to Sept. 24, when Pope Francis will deliver the first-ever papal address to Congress. His expected message of nurturing the poor, preserving the environment and opposing abortion has sensitive touchstones that could make both parties squirm.

"There will be no further roll call votes this week," Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told a mostly empty Senate on Wednesday afternoon, triggering lawmakers' exodus.

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A message from the American Petroleum Institute

America is now the world's #1 natural gas producer and will soon be #1 in oil. Now more than ever, abundant energy means abundant prosperity, opportunity and security for all Americans.

[Learn more at EnergyTomorrow.org](http://EnergyTomorrow.org)

Flake stands out as truly undecided GOP senator on Iran deal

By Laurie Kellman

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Jeff Flake has purposely spent time on deserted islands, so being the sole Senate Republican weighing whether to back President Barack Obama on the international nuclear deal with Iran is hardly a new experience.

It might be uncomfortable, though.

As Congress heads off on its August recess ahead of next month's vote on the accord, the Arizona freshman is believed by Senate vote counters to be the only Republican who's truly undecided. His support for the agreement, which calls on Iran to curb its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, is all Obama would need to call it bipartisan.

Republicans are generally uniform in their opposition, arguing that Iran cannot be trusted and a better deal should be brokered. A majority of Democrats will stand with the president, and are widely expected to muster the numbers to sustain any veto of a resolution of disapproval.

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Coal protesters, firm still battle over song lyrics in suit

By Ben Neary

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — The lyrics of a more than 40-year-old strip-mining protest song still amount to fighting words in Wyoming, where a lawsuit pits environmentalists against one of the nation's largest coal mining companies.

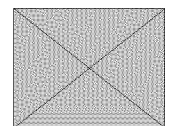
Lawyers for activists suing Peabody Energy Corp. and others quoted singer-songwriter John Prine's 1971 song "Paradise," which criticized the company's mining activities in Kentucky. It struck a sour chord with Peabody.

Activists Thomas Asprey and Leslie Glustrom asked a federal judge this week to deny the company's request to strip the lyrics from their lawsuit, noting that even U.S. Supreme Court opinions have quoted songs.

The Boulder, Colorado, activists claimed their civil rights were violated when they were arrested for protesting outside the company's 2013 shareholder meeting in the city of Gillette. Their lawyers kicked off their federal complaint by quoting the following verse:

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Week in Review –Clinton announces climate change plan

Senate panel votes to end U.S. export ban.

[Click here to read the brief](#)

White House aide Holgate named to IEA

President Obama is proposing to move Laura Holgate from a senior post on the National Security Council to become the U.S. ambassador to the International Energy Agency, which plays a key role in monitoring Iran's nuclear program, The Hill reports.

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New net metering plan in Nevada raises solar hackles

Solar energy backers allege NV Energy will damage the rooftop solar industry with its new proposals for net metering in Nevada, The Associated Press reports.

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Edison could face penalties over PUC dealings

Southern California Edison – found to have engaged in illegal communications with the California Public Utilities Commission about the nuclear plant at San Onofre – has until Aug. 20 to tell a judge why she shouldn't impose penalties as high as \$34 million, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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Fish kill settlement reached over Pennsylvania mine

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has reached a tentative settlement with Murray Energy Corp. over discharge from Consol Energy's Blacksville No. 2 mine six years ago, which resulted in a massive fish kill in Dunkard Creek, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports.

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Marathon swings to loss despite higher production, cost cutting

Marathon Oil reported a loss of \$386 million in the second quarter despite an increase in production and moves to trim spending, as the company was hit hard by the slide in oil prices, FuelFix reports.

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Transocean still hurting from crude crash

With shrinking demand for offshore rigs as a result of the oil price slump, contractor Transocean saw its second quarter profit drop 42 percent to \$342 million, FuelFix reports.

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Oil steady as production growth continues

With no end in sight for increasing production, oil prices languished early Thursday. U.S. benchmark crude fell 17 cents to \$44.96 a barrel in electronic trading on the Nymex, while in London Brent rose 9 cents to \$49.68, Reuters reports.

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Profit jumps for Energy Transfer Equity and affiliate

Lower costs and a tax benefit helped Energy Transfer Equity to an 82 percent increase in second quarter profit, to \$298 million, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Energy Transfer tying up financing for Williams bid

Bidding for Williams Cos. has advanced into the second round and Energy Transfer Equity remains front and center as a purchaser with the support of seven investment banks, people familiar with the matter have told Reuters.

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Pemex reins in rig operations

Pemex, Mexico's national oil company, is shutting down some drilling rig operations and renegotiating contracts on others in response to the oil price crash, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Petrobras scandal: OAS execs get 16 years

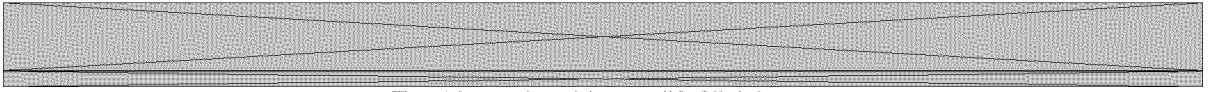
A Brazilian judge has handed down 16-year sentences to two former executives of the OAS construction firm – Jose Aldemario Pinheiro and Agenor Medeiros – who were convicted on bribery, money laundering and conspiracy charges in connection with the corruption scandal surrounding the state-owned oil company Petrobras, BBC News reports.

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Upcoming Events

- Aug. 6, Washington: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to hold

call to update its 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook. Lead hurricane forecasts
Gerry Bell to speak. Nonresponsive Conference Code



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